

Arrowhead News

Centre for Native Education

February 2001

Indian Time

(The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Concordia University).

The cultural genocide of the Sixties Scoop

By F. Thomas Edwards

For an entire generation, thousands of children were removed from Native families across Canada and subsequently placed in non-Native homes by a malfunctioning child welfare system. These children were never given an opportunity to learn positively about their culture. This act of removal -cultural genocide as defined in the United Nation's draft on Aboriginal rights- transpired over 20+ years in a period of Canadian history known as the Sixties Scoop.

The Scoop

After abandoning their residential school policies of Indian child internment, the federal government sought to force the provinces to care for the Indian population by amending the Indian Act in 1951 so that Indians, solely a federal responsibility, now also fell under the jurisdictional law of the provinces which included their regional child welfare policies. Later in the 1960s, the federal government entered into regional pacts with provincial agencies so they would implement their child welfare policies over Indian reserves. The underlying problem with these pacts was that the provinces would be paid practically piecemeal for managing Native children.

This expansion of child welfare services to Aboriginal communities, which took place across Canada, left a profound and negative impact, as the numbers of children taken from their homes began to skyrocket. By 1983, the Canadian Council on Social Development found that Native children in the care of child welfare agencies represented as high as 60-70% of all children in care in some provinces.

Repair but not apologize

It wasn't until the 80s when the governments finally began dismantling the child welfare system responsible for this cultural genocide, after Aboriginal leaders demanded it to end. But it was too late for the many families already torn apart and too late for the children who were raised without their cultural heritage, their language, and their families.

In 1998, when Jane Stewart, the minister responsible for Indian Affairs, issued a public apology for the victims of rampant sexual and physical abuse from the residential school system, she didn't take the opportunity to apologize to the thousands of children who lived through the Sixties Scoop. Children who are even now facing the effects of this era, as they have to struggle to regain their history and culture.

If you lived through this period, I want to talk to you, as I am gathering recorded histories of people who lived through the child welfare system, whether it be your experiences in foster homes, adoption, or even as a parent of one of the children taken for adoption. You may contact me via phone, e-mail or regular mail. -- F. Thomas Edwards, 1626 Rue Poupart, Montreal, QC H2K 3G4, fcree@hotmail.com <<mailto:fcree@hotmail.com>> or (514) 524-4087

So this Indian walks into a bar...

Three women are sitting in a restaurant after Sunday Mass discussing the sermon when one of them pipes up: "Nice sermon but my son could have done better. He was, as you know, ordained last week. Now everywhere he goes, people call him *Father*." The second woman chips in: "My son could certainly have done better! He is, after all, a bishop and wherever he goes, people call him *Your Honour*." The two women looked at the third woman, knowing that her son was not a priest, when she said: "Well, I don't know if my son would have done better. But I know this: my son is a gay hard bodied stripper and wherever HE performs, people fall to their knees and cry out: *God Almighty!*"

First Peoples Studies at Concordia University

The Committee held a meeting on January 18, 2001 to discuss the action plan for the upcoming year. It was decided that this year should be dedicated to the elaboration of curriculum only. In order to do this, the Committee has adopted a three-pronged approach. The first step is to examine the Native curriculum currently taught at Concordia by devising a survey. The second and third steps will consist in looking into what other Canadian Universities are offering and to create a program unique to Concordia and Quebec's Native peoples. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2001 at 1:30.

Frybread Corner

Here is a cheap, easy and iron-rich pasta dish that takes little time to make.

Tomato Clam Pasta

1 tbsp	olive oil
1	onion, finely chopped
3	cloves garlic, chopped
1	28-oz can stewed tomatoes
3 tbsp	tomato paste
1	5-oz can baby clams
1/2 tsp	dried oregano
Pinch	hot pepper flakes
1 tsp	dried parsley
	salt and pepper
3/4 lb	rotini pasta
1/2 cup	parmesan cheese

In heavy saucepan, heat oil over medium heat; cook onion and garlic, stirring, for about 5 minutes or until softened. Add tomatoes, crushing with fork, and tomato paste. Drain clams, pouring juice into saucepan; set clams aside. Stir in oregano and hot pepper flakes; bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer for about 30 minutes or until thickened. Add clams, parsley and salt and pepper to taste. Heat through; toss with pasta. Sprinkle with Parmesan.

What's your moose?

I think I speak for almost all of us when I say: I AM FED UP WITH THE SNOW!!
Bring on the Frog Moon (April)!

Sweetgrass and Buffalo Chips

The bouquets and brickbats of the Aboriginal world.

Sweetgrass and congratulations to all of this year's Aboriginal Achievement Awards recipients. They are: Freda Ahenakew, Mariano Aupilardjuk, Roman Bittman, Harold Cardinal, Dr. Lindsay Crowshoe, Tomson Highway, Fred House, Zacharias Kunuk, the Honourable Leonard Marchand, Richard Nerysoo, Lance Relland, Senator Nicholas Sibbeston, Mary Thomas and Dolly Watts. The award ceremony will be held on March 16 in Edmonton and will be hosted by Wanee Horn-Miller and Ted Nolan.

Buffalo Chips to outgoing U. S. President Bill Clinton who, in his last hours in office, saw fit to grant pardons to his brother and other associates for a variety of crimes but failed to address the long standing issue of Leonard Peltier's wrongful imprisonment. It would seem that Mr. Clinton was afraid that the FBI would rattle the skeletons in his own closet if he granted Mr. Peltier a pardon.

Buffalo Chips to newly elected U. S. president George W. Bush who sees nothing wrong with opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve for oil drilling. The wildlife reserve is the calving ground to 150 000 caribou who are not tolerant of any human development. The Vuntut Gwich'in, who rely on the caribou herd for sustenance, predict dire consequences if oil drilling is allowed.

Duck Soup for the Aboriginal Soul

And my hear soars.

The beauty of the trees, the softness of the air,
the fragrance of the grass,
speaks to me,
The summit of the mountain, the thunder of the sky,
the rhythm of the sea,
speaks to me.
The faintness of the stars, the freshness of the morning,,
the dew drop on the flower,
speaks to me.
The strength of fire, the taste of salmon,
the trail of the sun, and the life that never goes away,
they speak to me. And my heart soars.

- Chief Dan George 1899-1981

The Concordia Page

Dates to remember

February 19. Midterm break begins

February 23. Rector's Holiday. University closed

March 1. Last day for application to undergraduate programs

March 2. University Writing Test

March 9. Last day for academic withdrawal from two-term and winter-term courses

Articles and newspaper clips galore

The Centre for Native Education has started a collection of newspaper articles that pertain to Native issues. Everyone is welcome to consult the clips for their academic work or their own personal enjoyment. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Makivik Corporation for sending us all the press clippings.

Say goodbye to the lineup!

The Centre for Native Education, as many of you know, has a photocopier at your disposal. What many of you don't know is that we have the cheapest rates in town and, if you use your own paper, the copying is actually free of charge!

Awards and Scholarships

Please call the Centre for Native Education for further information on the following:

Hydro Quebec Awards of Excellence for Aboriginal Students

Open to First Nations students who have completed at least one year of full-time studies in a Quebec University. Must have adequate knowledge of French. Deadline for application: February 23, 2001.

Award: 12-week summer job and \$2000

Robert Markle Scholarship

For First Nations students enrolled in a visual arts program at a post-secondary institution. Deadline for application: March 31, 2001.

Amount: \$1,200

Aboriginal Training Program in Museum Practices

The Canadian Museum of Civilization offers an internship in museum practices for First Nations students enrolled in a post-secondary program in the fields of museology, arts or social sciences. Training can be credited towards a post-secondary program. The internship runs from September 5 to April 24, 2002.

Deadline for Application: March 15, 2001

Please contact the Centre for Native Education for more information.

Landlord on your case?

Tis the season for the tenant blues. We are fed up with winter, running low on cash, utilities bills are unpaid and now the landlord is pressuring you to either accept a hike in rent or move out. Before you take any action you may regret in the future, consult Concordia's **Legal Information Services**. Legal Information will give you up to date information on your rights as a tenant and will help you stick up for yourself.

Landlords and utility companies like Hydro Quebec and Gaz Metropolitain often bully people into believing that they must pay up immediately or face the consequences. The best way to fight back is through knowledge. You can set up an appointment with a competent resource person by contacting Legal Information Services at 848-4960.

Centre for Native Education

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